

# FURTHER NOTES ON THE GENUS *ARDISIA* (MYRSINACEAE) IN MADAGASCAR

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## ABSTRACT

*Ardisia capuronii* Pipoly is described and illustrated, and its phylogenetic relationships are discussed. Placement of *Ardisia capuronii* in subgenus *Akosmos* Mez is justified. A key to the species of *Ardisia* Sw. in Madagascar is presented.

## RESUMEN

*Ardisia capuronii* es una nueva especie de Madagascar. La especie se describe, se ilustra y se discute su parentesco. Se justifica la ubicación de la especie dentro del subgénero *Akosmos*. Se presenta una clave para identificar las especies del género *Ardisia* procedentes del Madagascar.

During a recent visit to the Laboratoire de Phanérogamie (P), to begin to prepare treatments of the Myrsinaceae for several different floristic projects, some curious collections by Capuron were discovered among the materials from Madagascar, representing a new taxon that is here described.

***Ardisia* (subg. *Akosmos*) *capuronii* Pipoly, sp. nov. (Fig. 1)**

Quoad ramulos crassos, suberosos glabrosque, folia petiolata marginataque, inflorescentiam pyramidalis-paniculatam longipedunculatamque, anteras ad initium poris apicalibus denique rimis longitudinalibus dehiscentes, petalos membranaceos *A. procerae* Capuron valde arcte affinis, sed ab ea foliis obovatis (non lanceolatis) coriaceis (nec membranaceis) supra dense minuteque scrobiculatis (nec laevibus), petiolis 2-plo minoribus, pedunculo lignoso (non succulento) epunctato (nec dense manifeste atro punctato-lineato), necnon floribus in umbellas (non corimbos) dispositas atque lobulis calycinis rugosis (non laevibus) suborbicularibus (nec ovatis) praeclare distat.

Tree to 25 m tall; branchlets terete, 1.5–2 cm diam., glabrous, with exfoliating reddish outer bark. Leaves persistent; lamina thinly coriaceous, obovate, (10–)12–20 cm long, (5–)6–10 cm wide, the apex widely rounded to truncate, the base cuneate, decurrent on the petiole, the midrib slightly raised above, prominently raised below, the secondary veins 14–18 pairs, densely and prominently black punctate, glabrous, the margin revolute; petiole marginate, 1.5–2 cm long, glabrous. Inflorescences axillary, pendent, 21–35.8 cm long, 10–16 cm wide, essentially columnar; inflorescence bract unknown; rachis hollow, glabrous, densely and prominently black punctate; peduncle (7–)10–16 cm long,



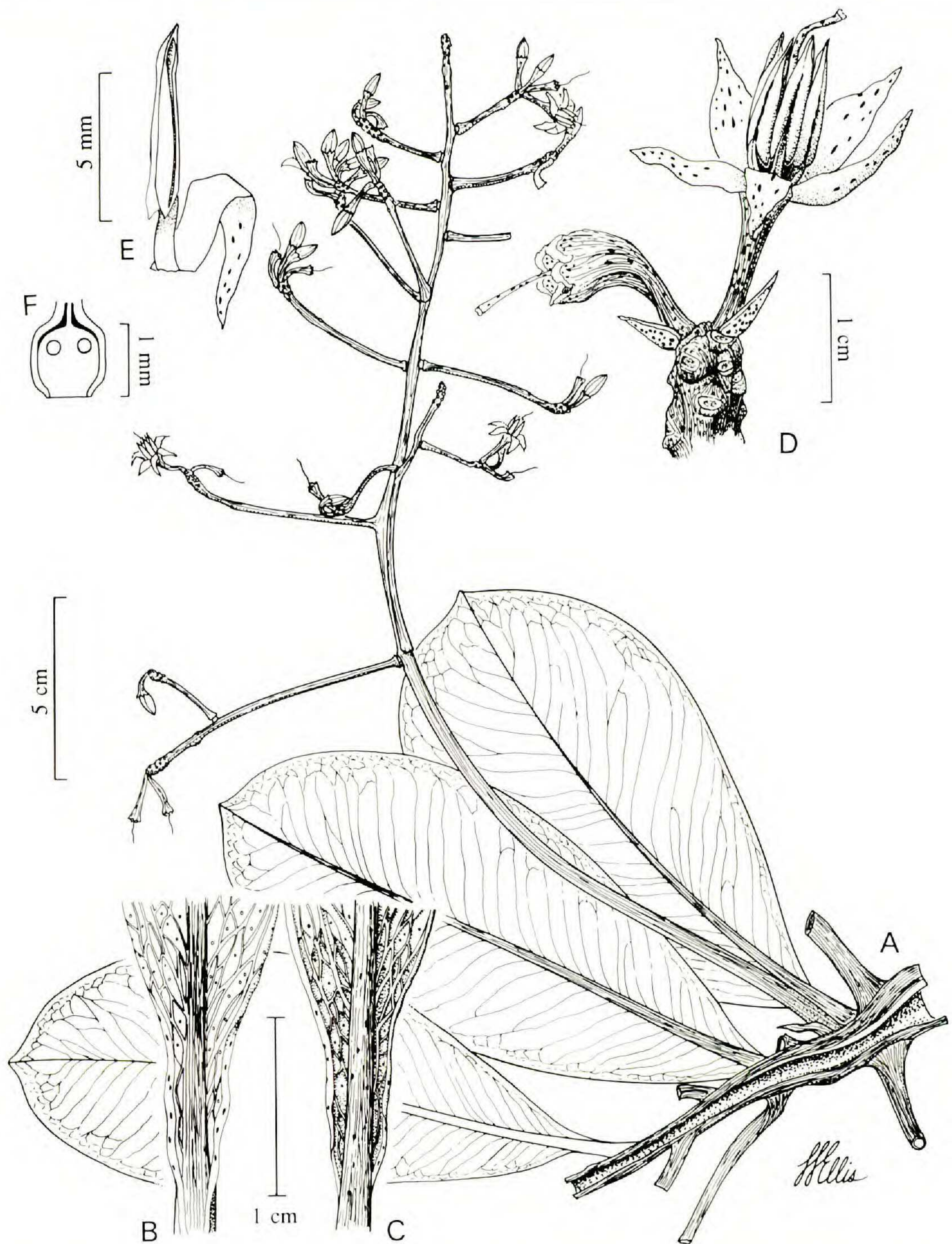


FIG. 1. *Ardisia capuronii* Pipoly. A. Habit. B. Adaxial leaf base, showing marginate petiole and punctations. C. Abaxial leaf base, showing petiole, raised midrib and raised secondary veins. D. Inflorescence branch apex, showing bracts, slightly asymmetric, long-acuminate petals, and punctate style. E. Stamen and petal base, showing terminal pore and longitudinal slit. F. Ovary longisection, showing uniseriate ovules. A–F, drawn from holotype.



broadened at base, glabrous; secondary branch bracts early caducous, unknown; floral bracts chartaceous, linear 2–3 mm long, 0.3–0.5 mm wide, the apex acuminate, densely and prominently red punctate, somewhat involute, the margin hyaline, entire, glabrous; pedicels cylindrical, recurved, 12–15 mm long, sparsely but prominently black and red punctate;. Flowers bisexual, pink, in terminal indeterminate 5–10-flowered umbels; buds ovoid, abruptly tapered apically; sepals 5, quincuncial, membranaceous, broadly ovate to suborbicular, 2.0–2.3 mm long, 1.8–2.0 mm wide, the apex broadly rounded, medially thickened or somewhat carinate, somewhat rugose and prominently black punctate basally, red punctate toward apex, the margin irregular, entire, hyaline, glabrous; petals 5, quincuncial, membranaceous, ovate, 9–11 mm long, 3.5–4 mm wide, united ca. 1–1.5 mm basally, the apex long acuminate, slightly asymmetrical, sparsely but prominently black punctate, glabrous, the margin entire, opaque, glabrous; stamens free, subequalling petals, 8–10.5 mm long, the filaments free, flat, membranaceous, lanceolate, 2–2.5 mm long, glabrous, epunctate, the anthers linear, 6–7 mm long, 1.8–2.5 mm wide, the apex acute, the base subsagittate, dehiscent first by apical pores, then by narrow longitudinal slits, the connective densely and prominently black punctate-lineate dorsally; ovary ovoid, 1–1.5 mm long and in diam., black-punctate, placenta globose, ovules 3–4, uniseriate; style tortuous, 7.5–8.5 mm long, densely black-punctate; stigma punctiform. Fruit unknown.

TYPE. MADAGASCAR. AMBINANIFAHIO: W of Isahana-Ambodipont, between Antalaha and Sambava; 19 Apr 1966 (fl), R. Capuron 24739-SF (HOLOTYPE: P; ISOTYPES: P- 2 sheets, TAN).

PARATYPE. MADAGASCAR. AMBALABE: N of Ambohitralanana (Antalaha), 18 Mar 1967 (fl), R. Capuron 27744-SF (P, TAN).

*Local names:* “Barabahala.”

*Ecology and distribution:* *Ardisia capuronii* is an element of the NE wet forest. It appears to be endemic to the region.

*Etymology:* It is a great pleasure to name this new species for the late R. Capuron, collector and ardent student of the Malagasy flora.

*Ardisia capuronii* is the fourth species of *Ardisia* subgenus *Akosmos* Mez to be discovered in Madagascar. It is closely related to *A. procera* Capuron, but is easily recognized by the obovate, coriaceous leaves minutely scrobiculate above, the shorter petioles, stout peduncles, umbellate flowers, rugose and suborbicular calyx lobes. The four species of *Ardisia* Sw. which occur in Madagascar all belong to subgenus *Akosmos* (Mez, 1902) defined by paniculate, long-pedunculate inflorescences subequal to the leaves, slightly curved style subequal to the petals, punctiform stigma and anthers with first poricidal, then longitudinal dehiscence. Miller and Pipoly (1993) placed *Ardisia* subgenus *Madardisia* Capuron (1963) in synonymy under subgenus *Akosmos*, and the latter concluded that Stone (1989, 1990) was correct in his conclusion that *Ardisia* subgenus *Akosmos*



had its principal center of diversity in the Malesian region. The species of *Ardisia* occurring in Madagascar are separated in the following key:

#### KEY TO SPECIES OF *ARDISIA* IN MADAGASCAR

1. Inflorescence a panicle of umbels; panicle branches perpendicular to central rachis; placenta rounded.
  2. Branchlets 8–10 mm diam.; leaf blades oblong or lanceolate, 2–3.5 cm wide; sepals chartaceous, ovate, 1.8–2 mm, flat; petals chartaceous, oblong, 4.5–5 mm long, symmetric, epunctate ..... *A. didymophora*
  2. Branchlets 15–20 mm diam.; leaf blades obovate, 5–10 cm wide; sepals membranaceous, broadly ovate to suborbicular, 2–2.3 mm long, somewhat carinate; petals membranaceous, ovate, 9–11 mm long, slightly asymmetric, sparsely but prominently punctate ..... *A. capuronii*
1. Inflorescence a panicle of racemes or corymbs; panicle branches at 45° to central rachis; placenta apiculate.
  3. Inflorescence an erect, pyramidal panicle of racemes; petioles 3–5 cm long; pedicels 1–2 mm long; petals 4–5 mm long, apices acute ..... *A. marojejyensis*
  3. Inflorescence a pendent, columnar panicle of corymbs; petioles obsolete; pedicels 10–20 mm long; petals 10–11 mm long, apices abruptly caudate-acuminate. .... *A. procera*

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